A Relation of a petrified Glandula Pinealis, *lately found in the Diſſection of a Brain: Communicated by* Sr. Edmond King *Knt.* M. D. *and* Reg. Soc. S.

Mr. *ROBERT BACON*, Maſter of Arts, of *Corpus Chriſti* Colledge in *Oxford*, a Pious Learned Man, above 75 Years of age, was formerly employed in Tranſcribing and Publiſhing the poſthumous Works of Dr. *Robert Gell*; he had been before a Preacher at *Buſſleton*, near *Briſtol*, and afterwards in the Town of *Windſor*; he was Sanguine, and chearful in his natural Temper.

About 12 Years ſince, his Friends obſerved that at his return home from walking, he would bend double to his right Side, inſomuch that he would be ready to fall, and has been brought home in Coaches and Sedans, yet was always temperate, and never obſerved to be diſordered with Drink in his Life.

He would often ſay, that he feared Fatuity, or Diſtraction, and would pray that God would keep him in his right Mind.

His Appetite to all ſorts of Food in his latter Years inclined to Canine, and his Thirſt very great.

He often complained of pain in his Bowels.

He was always deſirous to have his Head rubb'd many times in the day, and this too was of late Years.

His Urine of late Years, and Excrement came away always involuntary at Bed, Board, *&c.* of which he did not ſeem at all to be ſenſible.

Of late he would always hang down his Head in a prone ſleeping Poſture; and his Head was very hot: he did ſweat very much every night, and wet his Linnen extraordinarily.

And in the whole his rational Faculties ſeemed to be quite loſt, for a great while before he dyed; for he would uſually take

take up Tongs, Fire-ſhovel, Brooms (many times alltogether) to walk by, though he had a Staff of his own; he would alſo hale the Chairs about the Houſe and up the Stairs, and graſp at any thing with his hands; he would often tumble on the ground, and ſeldome riſe without help; he did rather creep along by Walls and Chairs than go, though formerly he went very upright; of late it was 2 or 3 Folks Work to ſupport him to his Bed; he would put 2 or 3 Hatts at a time upon his Head like an Antick, he would many times ſtrike thoſe that attended him, yet at Intervals would ſay to his Daughter, *Pray thee be reconciled to me*, or words to that Effect.

I hearing of theſe things before this Gentleman dyed, deſired that I might open his Head, and examine the Brain to ſee what I could find or obſerve therein extraordinary, that might occaſion ſo great a Change as was in him ſome Years before his Death.

He dyed of a *Feaver*, *November* the 4*th*. 1686, about 6 in the Evening.

Nov. 6*th*. 1686.

Upon Diſſecting the Body of Mr. *Robert Bacon* aforeſaid; We found in the loweſt *Venter* as followeth.

The Liver indifferently well coloured and firm.
The Spleen firm and good, but ſhrivill'd.
The Stomack firm, large, and ſtrong.
The Inteſtines all well coloured.
The *Omentum* whole but ill coloured.
The *Pancreas* very firm and good.
The Meſenterie well enough.
The right Kidney ſound, with a few ſmall ſtones.
The left Kidney two parts of three waſted, and ſome

courſe Gravel, but both Kidneys very fatt.

The Bladder of Gall filled with one Stone only, and that no bigger than a long Nutmeg.

The Bladder of Urine ſound, but ſome little courſe Gravel and ſmall Stones in it.

The middle *Venter* being opened; the Lungs were well enough, only by the ſtagnation of Blood diſcolour'd, and fill'd in ſeveral places with Icorous Spumy Matter.

The Heart ſtrong and Vigorous as I have ſeen.

The Pericardium very thin, and too tender, and too little Water in it; very little Blood in the Ventricles: No adheſion of his Lungs to his Ribbs.

The Auricles of his Heart perfectly ſound and ſtrong, as of any ſound Man of 20 Years old; thoſe and the ſtrength of the Muſcles of the Heart I admir'd.

The Head *being opened.*

The *Dura Mater* extreamly hard, thin and white, a ſlender Imboydery of Veſſels.

The *Pia Mater* all full of ſeeming turgid Glands, and a great diſtention of Lymphæducts full of coagulated *Lympha.*

The ſubſtance of the Brain looſe and ſhrunk, very white, very little of the cineritious Colour to be ſeen.

The *Corpus Calloſum* very flaccid more than ordinary.

The whole Body of the Brain was ſhrunk about a third part.

Between the two *Meninges* of the Brain, was near a pint of extravaſated *Serum*, that muſt needs oppreſs the Brain very much.

The Ventricles of the Brain full of *Serum.*

The *Plexus Choroides* extreamly large, in length as well as breadth and thickneſs.

The *Nates* and *Teſtes* very ſmall, and ſhrunk.

The *Thalami Nervorum Opticorum* plump and fair.

The

The *Corpora Striata* large and fair, full of large *Striæ* as I have ſeen.

The *Glandula Pinealis* firm and fair, well colour'd to look on, of the exact Figure, and ordinary ſiſe: Feeling of it, and finding it harder than ordinary (and talking to a Gentleman then preſent of *Des Cartes* his Opinion, that it was the Seat of the Soul) I preſt it, and found in it a Stone in a film, or rather a petrified Gland in a film; I took out the Stone, and kept it as a great Raritie; I do not remember I ever heard of ſuch a thing before, I am ſure of all the Brains I have diſſected (and I may ſay I have diſſected more than an hundred) I never ſaw ſuch a one.

The *Glandula Pituitaria* was half waſted, that part that was left was very hard and brittle, had not the Tone of a true Gland, nor ſubſtance, according to my Obſervations, unleſs of a vitiated Gland.

The *Cerebellum* ſeem'd well enough, and all down the *Cauda Medullæ oblongatæ*.

The other parts of the Brain unmentioned had nothing remarkable, nor have I time now to Philoſophiſe upon the Remarques to be made upon the above-named Obſervations.

Before he became ſo mopiſh, he would ſay he felt a certain kind of fierceneſs within him, which (it is probable) made him to utter ſome kind of Vociferation when he was diſpleaſed at any thing.

Remedies were applyed to all theſe Diſtempers for ſeveral Years, both inward and outward; outward as in Plaiſters, Cerates, opening the Jugular, *&c.* inward as Cardiacks, Cephalics, and Febrifuges, *&c.*

Thus having told you Matter of Fact, atteſted by his own Relations, (who were Eye Witneſſes of it) I leave theſe my Obſervations upon the Diſſection of his Body to the Conſideration of the more Curious and Inquiſitive.

Edm. King.

November the 6*th.* 1686.